

REMARKS

Responsive to paragraph 3 of the office action, a substitute drawing sheet bearing Fig. 26 labeled "Prior Art" is submitted herewith.

Responsive to paragraph 4 of the office action a "Substitute Specification and Abstract" is submitted herewith in order to place the case in the form of proper English. The "Substitute Specification and Abstract" contains no new matter. In order that the examiner can satisfy himself in this regard, also submitted herewith is a copy of the original Specification and Abstract, from which the "Substitute Specification and Abstract" was typed.

Newly presented claims 15, 20 and 21 roughly correspond to original claims 1, 2 and 3, respectively. The claims have been rewritten in order to place them in a form conforming to our practice and to address the problems noted by the examiner in rejecting the claims for indefiniteness in paragraph 6 of the office action. In view of the new claims, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection for indefiniteness as set forth in paragraph 6 of the office action is now moot.

The examiner will note that the newly submitted claims do not include any claim corresponding to claims 8-14 removed from consideration pursuant to the election in response to the restriction requirement. Further, the newly added claims include no claim corresponding to any of claims 4-7.

To the extent that they might be applicable to any of the newly presented claims, the rejections for anticipation are respectfully traversed. With regard to the rejection for anticipation by Fujimori, note that elements 18, 19 which the examiner refers to as “lid supporters” are not inserts but, rather, are “multiple clamp bores 19 formed in a depressed manner...,” quoting from column 8, lines 16-19 of Fujimori. Further, the examiner read “contacting portions” on lid 9 whereas the language of new claim 15 recites “lid edge inserts”, each of which is defined as “covering only a portion of a peripheral edge of the lid.” Further, new claim 15 requires that the materials of the lid support inserts and lid edge inserts be of a nature which generates a minimal amount of dust upon frictional contact therebetween. See page 18, lines 5-21 of applicants’ original specification. Fujimori is not considered relevant to this feature because the holes 19 are not formed of any material.

In rejecting claims 1 and 2 over Kinpara et al, the examiner again identifies recesses, specifically recesses 117, as “lid supporters.” See column 2, lines 61 and 62 where reference numeral 117 is identified as a “recessed portion.” Further, element 115 is not an insert which covers a portion of the peripheral edge of the lid. Rather, element 115 is identified by Kinpara as a “locking pawl”. See, for example, column 2, line 30 of Kinpara et al. Again, a recess is essentially a hole which is not formed of any material and which cannot be properly regarded as an insert.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-3 for anticipation by Krampotich et al, element 107 which the examiner identifies as a “lid supporter” is an integral portion of

the door frame 7, rather than an insert. Further, 105 is an elastomeric seal and 106 is a groove, neither of which covers only a portion of a peripheral edge of the lid.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-3 over Nyseth, the relevant disclosure of Nyseth is considered to be the same as that of Krampotich et al and, accordingly, the rejection over Nyseth et al is traversed for the same reasons that the rejection over Krampotich et al is traversed above.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1-3 over Park, again, the examiner is attempting to read applicants' "lid supporter", now "lid support inserts", on a hole. Element 108 in Park is identified by Park as an "insertion hole" in paragraphs [0048] through [0051]. The relevant structure in Park is considered to be the same structure as shown in Fig. 1 of Kinpara et al and relied upon the examiner in rejecting claims over Kinpara et al. Accordingly, the rejection over Park is traversed for the same reasons that the rejection over Kinpara et al is traversed above.

Newly presented claims 16-21 are considered to further distinguish the present invention from any of the structures disclosed in the above-discussed references.

Responsive to the requirement for election of species, applicants' hereby elect species Ia (Figs. 1-11). It is respectfully submitted that all of newly submitted claims 15-21 read on the elected species.

In conclusion, it is respectfully requested that the examiner reconsider the rejections of record with a view toward allowance of the newly presented, reworded claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 18, 2005

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